

could examine two of his specimens in detail, while on loan from the Zoological Survey of India to the Curator, Taraporevala Aquarium. The label accompanying these two specimens read:

***Puntius nigrofasciatus* (Gunther)**

Locality: A small rivulet in the forest at Ponda (Goa). Date: 13-12-73. Collector Dr. B. S. Lamba. Det. by G.M.Y.

From these details it appeared quite certain that the fishes mentioned by Yazdani in his note (cited above) as "collected from a small rivulet in the forest at Ponda, Goa" were the same that were loaned by the Zoological Survey of India for examination. Our examination of these specimens confirmed our earlier suspicion that the fishes claimed by Yazdani to be *nigrofasciatus* were really *P. narayani*.

E-31, CUSROW BAUG,
SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,
BOMBAY-400 039.

"SACHETAN",
L/4-5, SITARAM BUILDING,
PALTON ROAD, BOMBAY-400 001,
March 26, 1980.

P. nigrofasciatus is a popular fish in the home aquarium hobby, and as such, specimens are readily available (on sale in pet shops) in large cities like Bombay, Pune, Delhi, etc.

Yazdani (op. cit.) has attempted to give an explanation for the occurrence of his so-called *P. nigrofasciatus* in Goa, stating that the fish first evolved in the Western Ghats and subsequently migrated to Sri Lanka. Had this been so, the fish would also be likely to occur in Kerala or southern Tamilnadu. Moreover, Yazdani has not given any palaeontological evidence to corroborate his hypothesis.

We are grateful to Shri J. N. Pande, Curator, Taraporevala Aquarium, Bombay, for allowing us to examine the Ponda specimens while on loan from the Zoological Survey of India.

B. F. CHHAPGAR

S. R. SANE

REFERENCES

- YAZDANI, G. M. (1977): On a new record of India (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae). *Curr. Sci.* 46 Black Ruby, *Puntius nigrofasciatus* (Gunther) from (21): 760.

21. LOCAL NAMES OF POMFRETS FROM THE INDIAN COASTS

Pomfrets are highly esteemed as tablefish and are acclaimed as one of the tastiest fishes of the world. Because of their commercial importance they are eagerly sought after by fishermen. In Indian waters, pomfrets are represented by three species, namely silver pom-

fret (*Pampus argenteus* Euphrasen), Chinese or grey pomfret (*Pampus chinensis* Euphrasen) and black pomfret (*Formio niger* Bloch). Diverse local names are applied to these fishes, along the vast stretch of the Indian coast and a knowledge of such names is of importance

to fishery scientists, administrative officers, fish merchants and fishermen. Day (1878) in his monumental work gave some local names but they were in no way exhaustive. Kulkarni (1953) and Mohapatra (1966) have listed the local and scientific names of commercial fishes of Bombay and Orissa respectively. A list of local names of pomfrets collected by me from different regions of the entire Indian coast is given in the Table.

In certain localities fishermen apply diffe-

rent local names for the same species. The situation is confusing where the same local name is applied to two different species. This is true of silver pomfret and the Chinese pomfret. However, the silver pomfret can be easily recognised by its falcate median fins preceded by stubby spines and deeply forked caudal fin with a longer ventral lobe. In the Chinese pomfret the median fins are not falcate, the spines are altogether absent and the caudal fin has almost equal lobes.

TABLE
LIST OF LOCAL NAMES OF POMFRETS FROM THE INDIAN COASTS

State	Silver pomfret	Chinese pomfret	Black pomfret
Gujarat	Vichuda, Pipad, Chamana	Vichuda Chamana	Adadia
Maharashtra	Saranga, Paplet	Kalwad, Kafri Saranga, Chandva	Halwa
Karnataka	Bilimanji	Bilimanji	Karimanji
Kerala	Velutha avoli	Velutha avoli	Karutha avoli
Tamil Nadu	Vellai vavval	Vellai vavval	Karuppu vavval
Andhra	Tella chanduva	Tella chanduva	Nala chanduva
Orissa	Chandee, Ghia Chandi, Firki	Dhala Chandi Chandi bahal	Bahal, Kala chandi, Mainsia bahal
West Bengal	Chandi, Firki	Chandi bahal	Bahal

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
RAVENSHAW COLLEGE,
CUTTACK-753 003,
October 11, 1979.

S. PATI

REFERENCES

- DAY, F. (1878): Fishes of India. Vol. I. Text XX 778 pp. and Vol. II, Atlas—198 pls.
KULKARNI, C. V. (1955): Local and scientific names of commercial fishes of Bombay. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 51(4): 917-925.
MOHAPATRA, P. (1966): Local names of common sea fishes of Orissa. *Orissa Fish. Res. Invest. Bull.*, 1: 1-11.